

JOHN F. COOK
MAYOR

JOYCE WILSON
CITY MANAGER



CITY COUNCIL
ANN MORGAN LILLY, DISTRICT 1
SUSANNAH M. BYRD, DISTRICT 2
J. ALEXANDRO LOZANO, DISTRICT 3
MELINA CASTRO, DISTRICT 4
PRESI ORTEGA, JR., DISTRICT 5
EDDIE HOLGUIN JR., DISTRICT 6
STEVE ORTEGA, DISTRICT 7
BETO O'ROURKE, DISTRICT 8

**SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
AUGUST 11, 2005**

The City Council met at the above place and date. Meeting was called to order at 2:08 p.m. Mayor John Cook present and presiding and the following Council Members answered roll call: Ann Morgan Lilly, Susie Byrd, Jose Alexandro Lozano, Melina Castro, Presi Ortega, Jr., Eddie Holguin, Jr., Steve Ortega and Beto O'Rourke.

AGENDA

1. First Public Hearing pursuant to Sections 26.05 and 26.06, Texas Tax Code, on the City of El Paso's proposed Property Tax Rate Increase as published by the City on August 3, 2005.
2. The City Council of the City of El Paso may retire into EXECUTIVE SESSION pursuant to Section 3.5A of the El Paso City Charter and the Texas Government Code, Chapter 551, Subchapter D, to discuss any of the following: (The items listed below are matters of the sort routinely discussed in Executive Session, but the City Council of the City of El Paso may move to Executive Session any of the items on this agenda, consistent with the terms of the Open Meetings Act.) The City Council will return to open session to take any final action and may also, at any time during the meeting, bring forward any of the following items for public discussion, as appropriate.

Section 551.071 CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY

Section 551.072 DELIBERATION REGARDING REAL PROPERTY

Section 551.073 DELIBERATION REGARDING PROSPECTIVE GIFTS

Section 551.074 PERSONNEL MATTERS

Section 551.076 DELIBERATION REGARDING SECURITY DEVICES

Section 551.087 DELIBERATION REGARDING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEGOTIATIONS

3. Adjournment.

Mr. David Almonte, Director of OMB,,gave a Powerpoint presentation explaining the proposed tax rate.
(presentation on file in the City Clerk's Office)

Mayor John Cook asked Mr. Almonte if the proposed tax rate presented today was the same as the published tax rate.

The following members of the public commented:

1. Mr. Clifford E. Ellis spoke in opposition to the proposed tax rate and commented that the public hearing information provided to the public in the lobby area outside the Council Chambers is lacking.
2. Mr. Richard Schecter asked why the proposed tax rate information was not given to the public and when would Council adopt the proposed tax rate.

Ms. Joyce Wilson, City Manager, and Mr. Almonte responded to Mr. Schecter's questions.

3. Ms. Lisa Turner recommended that the Council adopt the .70 proposed tax rate and gave recommendations for monies raised (Police, Economic Development, Library and Parks and Recreation Department budgets.
4. Mr. Ray E. Gilbert, Jr. spoke in opposition to the proposed tax rate increase and the increases in the Department of Solid Waste Management budget.

1ST MOTION:

Motion made by Representative Holguin, seconded by Representative Lozano and unanimously carried to **ALLOW MR. GILBERT AN ADDITIONAL FIVE (5) MINUTES TO SPEAK.**

2ND AND FINAL MOTION:

Motion made by Representative Steve Ortega, seconded by Representative Byrd to **CLOSE THE FIRST PUBLIC HEARING** pursuant to Sections 26.05 and 26.06, Texas Tax Code, on the City of El Paso's proposed Property Tax Rate Increase as published by the City on August 3, 2005.

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APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:


Richarda Duffy Momsen, City Clerk